This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): For use in a router having, at a given time, a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, a method comprising:

a) informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities;

b) informing an external node of the identify of the currently designated routing facility;

c) providing, with the currently designated routing facility when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information to the external node; and

d) providing, with the current standby routing facility when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information to the external node.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the currently designated routing facility and current standby routing facility share a common forwarding facility.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the act of informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities includes generating and transmitting a message including an identification of the router, address information of the currently designated

routing facility, and address information of the current standby routing facility.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the act of informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities uses an existing BGP message format.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 further comprising:

e) if a failure of the currently designated routing facility is determined, then

i) electing the current standby routing facility as a new designated routing facility, and

ii) informing the external node of the identify of the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A router comprising:

a) a currently designated routing facility;

b) a current standby routing facility; and

c) a signaling facility adapted for

i) informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities, and

ii) informing the external node of the identify of the currently designated routing facility,

wherein the currently designated routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information to the external node, and

wherein the current standby routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the

standby routing facility, network information to the external node.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The router of claim 16 wherein the currently designated routing facility has a first internet address and the current standby routing facility has a second internet address.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A network having at least two routers, each of the at least two routers comprising:

a) a currently designated routing facility;

b) a current standby routing facility; and

c) a signaling facility adapted for

i) informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities, and

ii) informing the external node of the identify of the currently designated routing facility,

wherein the currently designated routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information to the external node, and

wherein the current standby routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information to the external node.

Claim 19 (original): A machine-readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 11.

Claim 20 (previously presented): For use in a router adapted to interact with an external router having, at a

given time, a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, a method comprising:

a) accepting, from the external router, the identify of the currently designated routing facility;

b) accepting, from the currently designated routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information;

c) using the network information accepted from the currently designated routing facility of the external router for determining routes; and

d) accepting, from the current standby routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information, but not using it for determining routes.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising:

e) storing the network information accepted from the current standby routing facility of the external router.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising:

e) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed;

f) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility; and

g) using path information from the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 21 further comprising:

f) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed;

g) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility; and

h) using the stored path information from the formerly current standby routing facility that is now the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A router adapted to interact with an external router having, at a given time a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, the router comprising:

a) an input for

i) accepting, from the external router, the identify of the currently designated routing facility, and

ii) accepting, from the currently designated routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information; and

b) a routing facility for

i) using the network information accepted from the currently designated routing facility of the external router for determining routes, and

ii) accepting, from the current standby routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility,

network information, but not using it for determining routes.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 further comprising:

c) a storage device for storing the network information accepted from the current standby routing facility of the external router.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 wherein the input is further adapted for

iii) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed, and

iv) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility, and

wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use path information from the newly elected new designated routing facility when the input accepts the indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as the new designated routing facility.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the input is further adapted for

iii) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed, and

iv) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby

routing facility has been elected as ~~the~~ a new designated routing facility, and

wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use the stored path information from the formerly current standby routing facility if it is newly elected as the new designated routing facility.

Claim 28 (original): A machine-readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 20.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): The router of claim 16 further comprising:

d) means for electing the current standby routing facility as a new designated routing facility if a failure of the currently designated routing facility is determined; and

e) means for informing the external node of the identify of the newly elected new designated routing facility.